AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend paragraph [0034] as follows:

[0034] In one embodiment, a method for gene expression profiling comprises measuring cDNA levels for biomarkers selected in the claimed panel. Such a method requires the use of primers, enzymes, and other reagents for the preparation, detection, and quantitation of cDNAs. The method of creating cDNA from mRNA in a sample is referred to as the reverse transcriptase polymer chain reaction (RT-PCR). The primers listed in SEQ ID NOs 45-88 are particularly suited for use in gene expression profiling using RT-PCR based on the claimed panel. A series of primers were designed using Primer Express Software (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, Calif.). Specific candidates were chosen, and then tested to verify that only cDNA was amplified, and not contaminated by genomic DNA. The primers listed in SEQ ID NOs 45-88 were specifically designed, selected, and tested accordingly. In addition to the primers, reagents such as one including a ~~dinucleotide~~ deoxyribonucleotide triphosphate mixture having all four ~~dinucleotide~~ deoxyribonucleotide triphosphates (*e.g.* dATP, dGTP, dCTP, and dTTP), one having the reverse transcriptase enzyme, and one having a thermostable DNA polymerase are required for RT-PCR. Additionally buffers, inhibitors and activators are also required for the RT-PCR process. Once the cDNA has been sufficiently amplified to a specified end point, the cDNA sample must be prepared for detection and quantitation. Though a number of detection schemes are contemplated, as will be discussed in more detail below, one method contemplated for detection of polynucleotides is fluorescence spectroscopy, and therefore chromophores that are suited to fluorescence spectroscopy are desirable for labeling polynucleotides. One example of such a fluorescent label is SYBR Green, though numerous related chromophores exist, and are known in the art.

Please amend paragraph [0038] as follows:

[0038] In one embodiment, a kit for gene expression profiling comprises the reagents and instructions necessary for the gene expression profiling of the claimed panel. Thus, for example, the reagents may include primers, enzymes, and other reagents

for the preparation, detection, and quantitation of cDNAs for the claimed panel of biomarkers. As discussed above, the method of creating cDNA from mRNA in a sample is referred to as the reverse transcriptase polymer chain reaction (RT-PCR). The primers listed in SEQ ID NOs 45-88 are particularly suited for use in gene expression profiling using RT-PCR based on the claimed panel. The primers listed in SEQ ID NOs 45-88 were specifically designed, selected, and tested accordingly. In addition to the primers, reagents such as one including a ~~dinucleotide~~ deoxyribonucleotide triphosphate mixture having all four ~~dinucleotide~~ deoxyribonucleotide triphosphates (*e.g.* dATP, dGTP, dCTP, and dTTP), one having the reverse transcriptase enzyme, and one having a thermostable DNA polymerase are required for RT-PCR. Additionally buffers, inhibitors and activators used for the RT-PCR process are suitable reagents for inclusion in the kit embodiment. Once the cDNA has been sufficiently amplified to a specified end point, the cDNA sample must be prepared for detection and quantitation. One method contemplated for detection of polynucleotides is fluorescence spectroscopy, and therefore chromophores that are suited to fluorescence spectroscopy are desirable for labeling polynucleotides and may also be included in reagents of the kit embodiment. Instructions included with the kit embodiment for gene expression profiling preferably teach the user the following steps: to obtain a biological sample; to isolate cellular RNA from the sample; to amplify copies of cDNA from the sample for each biomarker in the panel, and the panel for which the reagents are provided; and to quantify levels of cDNA amplified from the sample. Though tissue samples from a variety of procedures may be used, the instructions for obtaining a biological sample are preferably whereby the user obtains a sample of colorectal cells in a minimally invasive manner, such as by use of a swab or collection of a stool sample. The instructions may also preferably include the step of comparing the cDNA levels quantified to a control.